

I fully support Mr. Reich's petition RM-10620 to application upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the next license class if the licensee has had 20 or more years of operating experience. I also support Mr. Reich's proposal of reinstatement of 2-meter phone privileges to Novice license holders.

When I studied for my Technician license after the April 15, 2000 license restructuring, my uncle gave me the combo Novice/Tech Now You're Talking (the book from which he studied from). I myself found little difference between the Novice and Tech licenses except that a Novice came with HF and V/UHF and a Morse code requirement while the Tech came with no HF but full V/UHF privileges and no Morse code requirement which to me makes no sense! A person worked harder for a Novice license but got less privileges?

I also suspect that there was little difference between an Advanced and an Extra except for the code speed and now that there is a 5-word-per-minute Morse code standard in place, what more does one have to do to go from Advanced to being an Extra?

I also believe that a 20 year minimum is more than enough experience to be worthy of an upgrade to the next license class. Experience from the hobby and/or work is far more valuable than any textbook. And those people who wish to keep their license or don't care, won't upgrade, but others, I'm sure, will want to "go with the flow."